



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
October 14, 2024**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Matthew Mauer, Acting Clerk
Rosie Ayala
REMOTE: Aaron Pointer
Tim Reid

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters 4702 S. 19th St.

STUDY SESSION SPECIALIZED & ADAPTIVE RECREATION

Hollie Rogge opened the study session by highlighting that Parks has been committed to specialized recreation programming for over 70 years, beginning with modest summer camps in 1954 and evolving into a comprehensive program serving nearly 600 regular participants before the pandemic. Post-pandemic, the District collaborated with Pierce County to rebuild and expand the specialized and adaptive recreation program to better serve participants throughout the county.

Ms. Rogge then introduced Roxanne Miles, Director of Pierce County Parks & Recreation.

Roxanne Miles explained that the consortium was formed to consolidate efforts in providing specialized recreation programs, focusing on a unified registration process and a pool of qualified staff to foster trust and consistency for participants. She explained that local jurisdictions provide program locations and outreach, with Adventure Within Reach staff—now county employees—delivering these specialized services. Ms. Miles added that the goal is to host programs across the county, enabling participants to recreate closer to home and boosting overall participation. Ms. Miles emphasized that the consortium aims to serve individuals in their home communities while sharing administrative overhead to reduce duplication and ensure resource efficiency. This collaboration also allows for the full employment of part-time staff, strengthening relationships and providing consistency for families involved in the program. Ms. Miles then reviewed participant numbers and noted the increase in those being served. A brief discussion took place regarding the cities from which participants were coming.

Roxanne Miles commented that moving forward, the goals include establishing a strong referral network, particularly with nonprofits and adaptive sports organizations focused on autism, to provide complementary adaptive services. It was further explained that there is also an emphasis on collaborating more closely with school districts to help students transition from school to community programs.

Ms. Miles also noted that, there is consideration for a new centralized location to replace the Lakewood Community Center, which would require renovations and potential reinvestment.

Katt Merilo and Paker Ayers from Metro Parks Tacoma were then introduced to speak about Metro Parks' Adaptive Recreation Programs. Katt Merilo informed the Board of the outreach done in 2024 related to the program including work on the ADA Transition Plan, hosting the District's first Disability & Resource Fair and representing MPT at community partner gatherings. The Board was informed of the 2024-2025 Goals of the Program that included: Stand up Adaptive and Unified programming in after school and evening community spaces; continue to grow programming offerings and variety for Tacoma area youth and adults with disabilities; and continue to support inclusion of participants with disabilities in general Metro Parks programs.

Staff then spoke about the Unified Sports model that includes partnership with the Tacoma School District and Special Olympics Washington, afterschool offerings through Beyond the Bell & Club B, as well as unified teams in the evening community sports leagues. Mr. Ayers then commented on the adaptive sports opportunities being offered through the following: Partnership with Rainier Adaptive Sports, Project Play, and Move United; Teams, practices, and competitions year round; After school offerings in sport sampling through Beyond the Bell and Club B; Opportunities for Adaptive teams in evening Community Sports Leagues. Staff commented that they hoping to expand the program moving into 2025 by increasing partnerships and offerings.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Metropolitan Park District Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. President Smith read a land acknowledgement.

President Smith noted that Commissioners Reid and Pointer were attending remotely.

Commissioner Ayala was appointed as acting clerk.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY PROCLAMATION

Following a brief introduction by Alan Varsik noting the growth of the District's relationship with the Nisqually Tribe over the past several years, Rose Wells was honored and recognized for her work with NW Trek in her role as a Nature Engagement Fellow.

President Smith read a proclamation recognizing October 14, 2024, as Indigenous Peoples' Day and recommitting to partnering with Indigenous leadership to advance equity in local communities and care for the lands which the District stewards.

Rose Well addressed the Boad and thanked them for the opportunity she has had to work with NW Trek. A group photo was taken.

GREEN TACOMA DAY PROCLAMATION

Desiree Kennedy shared that Green Tacoma Day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in October as a day of service connecting neighbors with nature. Ms. Kennedy stated that this past Saturday, October 12, community members from across Tacoma participated at 13 event sites hosted by 11 organizations. The Board was reminded that the Tacoma Tree Foundation, a key partner, plays a vital role in expanding Tacoma's urban forest, focusing on distributing and planting trees, particularly in lower-equity areas.

Commissioner Mauer read a proclamation recognizing and honoring October 12, 2024, as Green Tacoma Day and Tacoma's Arbor Day.

Lowell Wyse, Executive Director of Tacoma Tree Foundation was present and was recognized by the Board. Mr. Wyse addressed the Board and commented positively on the partnership with MPT. A group photo was taken.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Smith commented that she attended NRPA national conference where the District received its official reaccreditation.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Arts & Heritage Advisory Council

Commissioner Ayala stated that the council last met at Fort Nisqually and discussed fall programming.

Joint Municipal Action Committee

Commissioner Ayala noted that at the last meeting there was review of Summer Teen late night, and discussion about adopting committee protocols.

Nature & Environment Advisory Council

Commissioner Mauer commented that the council will be meeting tomorrow. Agenda items will include a review of the District's Climate Action Plan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shon Sylvia, Executive Director commented on the following:

- City Council District #2 participatory budget winning proposal announced on Saturday was for downtown skate park, a project that will be implemented with MPT assistance.
- Hoot & Howl at NW Trek is scheduled for October 18-19th & 25-26th
- Zoo Boo is scheduled for Saturday October 19th
- Co-Create to Recreate is being held this Wednesday, October 16th at 5:30pm, at ESCC & October 17th at STAR Center.
- COW scheduled for October 21, 2204 at 5:30pm
- Congratulations To Commissioner Ayala -Last week UWT held the Celebrando Comunidad: Latine Awards + Celebration The event recognizes both individuals and

organizations in the South Puget Sound area who positively impact Latine communities. Commissioner Ayala was presented with the Emerging Leader Award

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Kit Burns commented that he initially opposed selling land to the fire department but changed his mind after conducting research and consulting with the city and fire department. Mr. Burns expressed a long-standing interest in Wright Park and shared a 1989 study on Wright and Lincoln Parks, which includes details about trees and a planting plan that should be considered for future development. He expressed concern about the overplanting of fir trees and emphasized the need to address this in ongoing park development discussions.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. C61-24: APPROVAL OF WARRANTS CLAIM FUND FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Commissioner Reid moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ayala and passed on a vote of 5-0.

PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. P62-24: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR METRO PARKS TACOMA

1. CDW GOVERNMENT FOR MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 SOFTWARE, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, OTHER SERVICES AS REQUESTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,039,025.00 (INCLUDING WSST)

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Mauer.

Debbie Russell commented that Metro Parks uses Microsoft Office 365 as its primary office administration software. She noted that the contract being discussed will extend the service for another three years, starting on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2027. The services included in the contract cover email, Teams, SharePoint, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and ongoing upgrades and security patches. The Board was informed that the three-year contract for Microsoft Office 365 is contingent upon its adoption in the 2025-26 budget, as stated in the Board resolution, and this requirement will also apply for the budget review in 2028. Ms. Russell added that the software was purchased through the State's Department of Enterprise.

Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS PURCHASING RESOLUTIONS None

SINGLE READING RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. R63-24: EXPRESSING THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS’ OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE 2117 AND INSTEAD MAINTAIN INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Commissioner Pointer moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Commissioner

Commissioner Mauer commented Initiative 2117 is a measure on the November ballot aimed at repealing Washington's cap and invest program, which is crucial for electrifying and decarbonizing the economy. He stated that this initiative poses a threat to the progress made by Metro Parks and other jurisdictions in reducing carbon emissions. Commissioner Mauer stated that some jurisdictions have already expressed strong opposition to the initiative, prompting this resolution to officially oppose it and add Metro Parks to that list.

Being no additional comments, the question was called, and the resolution passed on a vote of 5-0.

FIRST READING RESOLUTIONS None

SECOND READINGS RESOLUTIONS None

NEW BUSINESS None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Reid expressed his satisfaction with the recent reaccreditation of the District.

Commissioner Ayala commented positively on her experience at Fort Nisqually Candlelight Tour.

President Smith made a motion to move change the location of the October 28, 2024 Regular Park Board Meeting the STAR Center; seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45p.m.

President

Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Bowman, Board Secretary